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JULY 22.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Eleven persons present.

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JULY 29.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, Vice-President, in the chair.

Eight persons present.

*Sexual Characteristics in Zinnia.*—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN, referring to some so-called double Zinnias on the table, remarked on the change of sexual character which followed the change of a tubular to a ligulate floret. This was not confined to *Zinnia*, but occurred in *Dahlia*, and, he believed, all composite flowers. It must be a well-known fact, but had not, so far as he knew, been placed on record. It was well worthy of study by those interested in the laws of sex. In *Zinnia* a single ligulate floret would often be surrounded by tubular and hermaphrodite ones; but it would have the purely pistillate character of the ray florets. In like manner, when, in the double *Dahlia*, the tubular florets became ligulate, the neutral character of the ray florets followed with them. It was evident that in these cases there was an intimate connection between the form of the floret and its sexual character. There was even a difference in the form of the akene in the different florets of *Zinnia*. The ligulate female floret had a broad akene, tapering at the summit, and with the apex very hairy; while the akene of the tubular hermaphrodite floret was truncate, and entirely smooth.

He made some further remarks on the growth of the floret in connection with that of the staminal tube. In many compositæ the growth of the pistil continued for a day or two after the corolla had ceased to grow, pushing up often to a length double that of the corolla. In *Zinnia* the growth of the floret was enormous on the last day, often doubling its previous length in twenty-four hours. It always remained longer than the pistil, until it withered away, when the expanded arms of the pistil were exposed. The anther cells burst before the floret opened, and, though the arms could not expand, enough pollen entered by the stigmatic fissure to ensure self-fertilization.

The following was ordered to be printed :—